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Breaking News

September 28, 2001

Spend what it takes to ensure safety, says congressman

Neil Orman

There should be no penny-pinching when it comes to ensuring airline safety, U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, said Friday.

Mr. Honda says airport planners need to focus on the best security approaches available, irrespective of the money involved.

"We can't afford to focus so much on the bottom line," Mr. Honda says. "Our airports are pretty porous today."

He made the comments while attending a press event at the campus of a Mountain View digital imaging startup, PIXIM Inc. The main focus of the event was PIXIM's announcement of a \$100,000 stock-based charitable donation to the Entrepreneurs Foundation. However, the company, and Mr. Honda, also took the time to explore potential uses of PIXIM's imaging technology for airport security.

PIXIM is developing a chip that allows images to be captured with more detail than traditional cameras allow, with less loss of resolution when an image involves severe light contrast. In theory, the image of a suspected terrorist would show up in much clearer view on security cameras.

Most of the event centered around PIXIM's gift to the Entrepreneurs Foundation of \$100,000 of pre-IPO stock. The Entrepreneurs Foundation aims to use the capital from the stock, if it appreciates, to invest in education and youth projects.



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